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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Section 15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Report of the Secretary-General on the thirteen posts formerly attached to the subprogramme on Trade among countries having different economic and social systems

1. Upon consideration of the programme budget proposals for 1992-1993, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/185 C, section IX, took note of the Secretary-General's proposals and decided to retain all 13 posts for 1992, requesting the Secretary-General "to make proposals on these posts for 1993 to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, taking into account the results of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development [and] other mandates of relevant intergovernmental bodies ..."

2. It will be recalled that in presenting his proposals for the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 under section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)), the Secretary-General proposed the abolition of the D-2 post formerly assigned to programme 13, subprogramme 5 (Trade among countries having different economic and social systems), and redeployment of the 12 other posts from that subprogramme to other subprogrammes as follows:

Programme 13 - International trade

Subprogramme 1: Protectionism and market access (1 P-5)

Subprogramme 2: Structural adjustment and trade expansion (1 P-4, 1 P-2, 1 GS/OL)

Subprogramme 3: Cross-sectoral issues (1 P-5, 1 P-3, 2 GS/OL)

Subprogramme 6: Commodities (1 P-3)

Subprogramme 7: Economic cooperation among developing countries (1 P-2, 1 GS/OL)

Programme 14 - Development finance, resource flows and external debt

Subprogramme 1: External financing and international monetary issues (1 P-3)

3. Following the decision of the General Assembly, the 12 posts proposed for redeployment were attached to the International Trade Programmes (subprogrammes 1 to 3), the Commodities Division (subprogramme 6), the Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC) Division (subprogramme 7), all under programme 13, the Resources for Development Programmes (subprogramme 1) under programme 14, and assigned functions related to these substantive areas. The incumbent of the D-2 post assumed responsibility for the activities carried out under Cross-sectoral issues (subprogramme 3) and for assistance in the overall direction and supervision of International Trade Programmes in general.

4. The eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in February 1992, agreed on a comprehensive reorientation of UNCTAD's work programme and established a new structure for its intergovernmental bodies. UNCTAD VIII agreed on new approaches to traditional programmes such as commodities, investment and financial flows, trade, technology, and economic cooperation among developing countries. It was decided that the scope of work on trade facilitation should include the issue of trade efficiency, and new activities were assigned to UNCTAD in the areas of poverty alleviation, privatization and work related to the economic aspects of the conversion of military capacities to civilian uses. In this context the Trade and Development Board at its session in September 1992 will consider the establishment of a new intergovernmental body to deal with the issue of structural adjustment related to the disarmament process and its implications for growth and development. UNCTAD's mandate on sustainable development was extended and an important role in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was envisaged.

5. In its consideration of the problems related to countries in the process of transition to market economies, the Conference called, inter alia, for international support; liberalization of trade regimes vis-à-vis those countries; provision of assistance for increasing their participation in international trade; and identification of opportunities for trade and economic cooperation to the mutual advantage of those countries and developing countries.

6. The programmatic changes are reflected in the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 submitted in document A/47/6, under programme 13 (Trade and development), programme 14 (Trade expansion, export promotion and services sector development) and programme 15 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes).

7. In addition, a full review of the internal organization and structure of the UNCTAD secretariat has been undertaken. While that review is not yet completed, it is anticipated that a reorganization of the UNCTAD secretariat would enable it to implement its newer mandates efficiently and effectively while continuing to carry out its ongoing activities.

8. In the light of the above, the Secretary-General proposes to extend all the 13 posts referred to above through 1993 on a temporary basis and to make proposals concerning the future status of those posts in the context of the programme budget proposals for the biennium 1994-1995, in the light of the results of the internal review of the UNCTAD secretariat. Meanwhile, the incumbents would carry out assignments resulting from decisions taken by UNCTAD VIII, referred to above, in addition to the tasks assigned to them under the 1992 work programme. The incumbent of the D-2 post would continue to assist in the overall direction and supervision of programmes in the area of international trade.

9. A final decision on the future status of these 13 posts could then be taken in the context of the review of the programme budget proposals for 1994-1995, taking into account the programmatic changes reflected in the revisions to the medium-term plan presently before the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, and the outcome of the review of the organizational structure of the UNCTAD secretariat currently under way.

10. The extension of these posts for one year through 1993 would entail additional requirements for the current biennium which are estimated as follows:

Posts	Salaries and common staff costs for 1993
	$
1 D-2	155 700
2 P-5	269 400
1 P-4	117 500
3 P-3	293 400
2 P-2	157 000
4 General Service/Other Level	318 000
Total	1 311 000

11. In addition, an amount of $306,100 for staff assessment would be required under section 36 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

12. In line with the policy put forward in the revised estimates as requested by the General Assembly in resolutions 46/185 and 46/232 (A/C.5/47/2) with

regard to the treatment of vacancies, it would be the intention of the Secretary-General to proceed as follows:

(a) To use for one year any vacant posts in UNCTAD which, following the review of its secretariat currently under way, might be identified as available for redeployment;

(b) To redeploy for one year the balance of the 13 posts required, from other sections of the programme budget where vacant posts have already been identified as available for redeployment.

This would preclude the need for any additional appropriation at this stage.